

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. No amendments have been made by way of the present submission, thus no new matter has been added.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-14, drawn to a method for separating and purify RNA, classified in class 435, subclass 6;

Group II, claims 1, 15, drawn to a method for separating and purifying RNA, classified in class 435, subclass 6;

Group III, claims 1, 16, 17, drawn to a method for separating and purifying RNA, classified in class 435, subclass 6; and

Group IV, claims 1, 16 and 18, drawn to a method for separating and purifying RNA classified in class 435, subclass 6;

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (Claims 1-14, drawn to a method for separating and purifying RNA.)

However, Applicants submit that there is no undue burden placed upon the Examiner to search and consider claims 1-18 in their entirety. That is, The Examiner should examine all Groups since all Groups have been classified in the same class and subclass (class 435, subclass 6). Favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

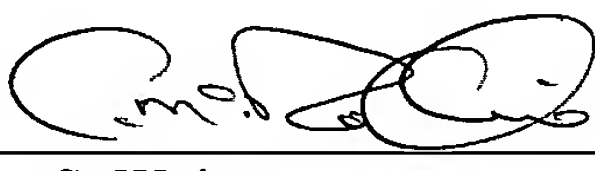
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner, Registration No. 32,181 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  #42874
Marc S. Weiner
Registration No.: 32,181
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant